

Local man comes to crash victim's aid

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

A Gelert man is being humble about the role he played in the probable saving of a woman's life on the morning of Dec. 13.

Carpenter Chris Dobbins was on his way to a job about 9 a.m. on Saturday morning when he came upon an alarming scene on County Road 1, not far from its intersection with County Road 121.

"There's a dude standing there on the side of the road, soaking wet, waving his arms," Dobbins told the *Times*, explaining he spotted an overturned car in a water-filled ditch moments later.

Bharat Bhaga and his mother Meena Chakrabuttry-Bhaga of Grimsby, Ont. were on their way to visit Meena's parents, who live in Gelert.

Bharat, who'd been driving, was able to escape the 2005 Honda Civic, but Meena was trapped inside.

"I saw the car flipped over in the ditch," Dobbins, 37, recalled. "She was in there, kind of upside down."

The water level was dangerously close to her face.

What went through Dobbins's mind?

"Panic," he said. "Just trying to figure out what to do."

Unable to get Meena out of the car, Dobbins called 911. He was then able to winch the car using a cable and his truck. While Dobbins was unable to get Meena out of the ditch, he was able to keep the vehicle secure.

When OPP, EMS and Minden Hills volunteers

see 'I HAVE page 2



Firefighters' Christmas party

Singer/songwriter David Archibald entertains the crowd at the annual Stanhope Firefighters' Christmas party at the Stanhope community centre on Dec. 13. Archibald sang classic tunes like *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and *The Great Bear of Winter* to the more than 30 people in attendance. The party is put on by the Algonquin Highlands Firefighters Association. More on page 8. **Angelica Blenich** Staff

Stars on Ice to train in Minden's arena

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

The country's best figure skaters will be in Minden Hills this spring, training for Stars on Ice, which next year will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

"I want to make sure the 25th anniversary of Stars on Ice is special," four-time world figure skating champion Kurt Browning told Minden Hills councillors as he visited them during a Dec. 11 council meeting. "I want to throw a party."

As Browning, who introduced himself as "someone who used to be important,"

explained to council, his plan is to have the cast of next year's Stars on Ice show train at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden in April.

"My idea is to shack everyone up at my cottage," Browning, who's been a seasonal resident of Minden Hills since 2000, told council.

"Everyone" would include skaters such as world champions and 2014 Olympic silver medalists Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and three-time world champion and silver medal Olympian Patrick Chan.

Browning's request was for the township to extend the ice season at the arena from April 5 to 25, with the skaters training at the facility April 21 to 25.

Browning said he was unaware what it cost the municipality to facilitate the extra ice time, but that he was "willing to come halfway to meet you."

Keeping the ice in will cost the township \$1,500 a week in hydro, staff and equipment costs.

The 30 hours of ice time that would be used would bring \$1,890 in revenue.

Browning had some other incentives up his sleeve as well.

"I could come to town - like Santa Claus - and do a seminar for the kids," he said, adding that some of the rehearsal time could

see COUNCIL page 2

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'I have no words to tell you the gratitude'

from page 1

teer firefighters arrived, they were able to cut Meena from the vehicle.

"It was amazing," Dobbins said.

How does he feel about helping to save a woman's life?

"I don't know if that's entirely true," he said. "The fire department are the ones who really did it."

However, the Haliburton Highlands OPP say Dobbins did it, too.

"Police want to recognize the efforts of the passing motorist, Chris Dobbins, and the driver Bharat Bhaga whose quick actions in a stressful situation led to a remarkable rescue," a press release from the detachment read.

Meena, 54, and Bharat, 24, had left home early for their visit to Gelert.

They'd just made the turn on to County Road 1 when their car began to slide.

"He wasn't driving very fast," Meena said of her son. "I said, 'Bharat, you've hit black ice.' At that point, I think he tried to over-compensate. I thought we were probably just going to hit snow."

The next thing she knew, the vehicle plunged into dark, icy cold water.

Her motherly instincts kicking in, Meena panicked for her son.

"I said, 'Take your seatbelt off and open the door,'" Meena said, explaining the colour of the water had her horrified her son was bleeding. "It was blackish . . . I thought it was blood."

Meena was able to get her own seatbelt off, but unable to get out of the vehicle.

"There was this pocket of air," she said, explaining it was basically just big enough for her to continue breathing.

Disoriented, Meena wasn't able to explain exactly how she was positioned in the car.

"I know I was kneeling, I don't know what I was kneeling on," she said. "I know my head was above water. One hand was behind me and seemed like it was stuck."

While Bharat wanted to stay with his mother, Meena instructed him to go up to the road, start walking toward his grandfather's house and flag down the first car that came along.

Meena waited in the cold, ice floating around her.

"There was ice everywhere," she said, explaining she could feel her body beginning to freeze.

Then Bharat returned with the driver he'd flagged down.

"This beautiful gentleman who called himself Chris," Meena said. "I could tell by his voice he was worried about what he was seeing."

Dobbins cranked up the heat in his vehicle so Bharat could warm up and call relatives. He winched the Civic, preventing it from slipping further into water.

"I could hear sirens," Meena said, her voice breaking as she explained how emergency crews arrived. "They worked so beautifully. There are no words to describe it."

They were calm, they were kind."

At one point, Meena said she was worried her rescuers would also develop hypothermia themselves and told them to get out of the water.

At peace with her maker, she was ready for whatever was going to happen.

"At one point, I said to them, 'I'm OK, just leave me here,'" Meena said, adding her rescuers scolded her for saying such a thing. Once extricated from the car, Meena and Bharat were rushed to the Minden emergency room, where Bharat was treated for minor hypothermia, his mother severe hypothermia.

Dobbins estimated Meena was in the water for a total of 45 or 50 minutes.

At the hospital, Bharat apologized to his mother.

"I said, 'Never apologize for this, you saved us both,'" Meena said, adding she believed a higher power was at work also. "People don't like the word God, but it was God."

Afterwards, Meena called Dobbins and left him a message. Bharat sent a letter to OPP officer Kevin Brown.

"I have no words to tell you the gratitude I have for saving my son and myself," she said, adding she hoped to meet her rescuers one day.

Meena said Minden Hills residents should feel both proud and safe.

"I can only say the town of Minden has a beautiful family in the ER."



File photo/2010

Advocate and author passes away

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Jeff Pinney, a county resident known for his art and activism, passed away Sunday at the age of 67.

Pinney, who documented his battle with MS in a book *Zen and the Art of Multiple Sclerosis* in 2012, could often be seen wheeling about the streets of Minden or taking in live music at the Dominion Hotel.

For the past four years, he'd been a resident of Minden long-term care facility Hyland Crest, and that is where he succumbed to pneumonia on Sunday, after a three-week bout with the disease.

"A rebel," said friend and lawyer Carolyn Coburn, when asked how she'd remember Pinney. "A free thinker. Jeff had a very broad view of the world."

Coburn helped Pinney acquire his medical marijuana licence and recognized him as a tireless advocate for more liberal availability of medicinal marijuana.

She also recalled him as a great artist, creating paintings and wooden sculptures, often birds, including a life-sized blue heron.

"It was amazing," he said. Pinney battled MS for three decades. He'd lived on Buckslide Road in Algonquin Highlands before moving to Water Street in Minden and eventually into Hyland Crest.

Musician Sheri Hawkins knew Pinney for close to 30 years. "I knew him back when he could walk," Hawkins said, recalling Pinney as brilliant. "We couldn't believe the stuff he would do." That stuff included a top-to-bottom renovation of the house he purchased on Buckslide Road, as well as numerous artworks. Hawkins remembered a particular painting, one she said always left her "thunderstruck," that featured a shed or garage of some type, in front of which sat an aging bicycle. Pinney had kept the painting in his room at Hyland Crest.

"That painting always stuck with me because I thought of Jeff looking at it and thinking, 'I just want to get on that bike and ride away,'" Hawkins said.

She and fellow troubadour Albert Saxby had recently given Pinney a private concert.

"We were there two weeks ago," she said. "He looked very well." Hawkins said his disease had progressed to the point where Pinney didn't talk much. "It was taxing for him," she said. "I haven't had a lot of conversation with him because I knew it was taxing for him." Pinney still listened intently to the music, though. "You could see that he was really taken away," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said she never heard Pinney complain about his illness. Not once.

Pinney is survived by his sister and mother in Toronto.

Kurt Browning attended Minden Hills council last week to inquire about using the township's arena for Stars on Ice to practice. The former Olympic figure skater and Minden Hills cottager said the area holds a special place in his heart.

Chad Ingram Staff



Council gives unanimous support to Stars

from page 1

be opened up for public viewing and hinting that autograph sessions could likely be arranged as well.

"People could come in, sit and watch some of the best skaters in the world rehearse."

Browning referred to Minden Hills as his

second home.

"This is where I come to be as close to the person I think I really am," he said.

Browning also made a cellphone call to Virtue, who spoke to councillors.

"One thing we're always looking for as a cast is more time to create," she told councillors.

Council gave the request unanimous sup-

port.

A staff report indicated that keeping the ice in an extra few weeks may provide for other rental opportunities.

Minden Hills used to keep ice in at the arena during the summer for the Haliburton Hockey Haven camp, but that practice was discontinued during the last term of council.

MH attempts to reduce legal bills

Building department legal bills are twice what was budgeted for 2014

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Minden Hills council is asking staff to find ways to reduce legal costs within the township's building department.

A report from chief building official Colin McKnight received by councillors at their Dec. 11 indicated the department would more than double its legal budget for 2014.

While \$7,000 had been budgeted for building/bylaw/planning issues for the year, McKnight's report showed that as of Oct. 31, double that had been spent.

As of October, the bylaw department had responded to 60 new complaints, as well as 79 outstanding ones from previous years.

"Previously, when staff received complaints, such as building without a permit, failing property standards, zoning violations, as well as noise issues, every effort was made

to obtain compliance through mediation, letters, talking to the offender, multiple site visits, before proceeding with legal action," McKnight wrote. "In most cases compliance can be achieved, however, there are individual issues/cases that refuse to comply. Staff's only other avenue is to commence with legal action through the municipality's solicitor."

“

There are increasing numbers of people who are deliberately not playing by the rules

— Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin

McKnight pointed to one example where an illegally built structure was taken down only after going through the court.

"The solicitor's invoice was just under \$14,000 and the

municipality was awarded \$8,000, leaving \$6,000 to be paid for out of building/bylaw/planning budget," his report read. "This represents only one of the many complaints the department oversees."

Reeve Brent Devolin was troubled by what he sees as a growing trend.

"There are increasing numbers of people that are deliberately not playing by the rules," Devolin said. "The costs are escalating in this municipality and within the building department, specifically. I don't think Minden Hills is probably unique in this happening."

Devolin suggested looking at using paralegals instead of lawyers where possible to save money, the possibility of increasing fines and looking at how neighbouring municipalities deal with such issues.

"We're putting the burden on the taxpayers," he said.

Councillor Pam Sayne, who operates a home inspection business, agreed investigating paralegals was a good option.

"We need to see the public coming in and using our building department as a resource," Sayne said. "We do need to address this."

Council referred the issue back to staff for recommendations on reducing costs.

Employee benefit payments to fall by 12 per cent

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed by Minden Hills council during a Dec. 11 meeting.

The township's payment for staff benefits will decrease 12 per cent in 2015, from \$270,000 per annum to approximately \$240,000.

Kevin Ashe of Mosey & Mosey told council this was due, at least in part, to decreases in long-term and short-term disability claims in recent years, from their high in 2011.

"If this trend continues, you can expect further reductions next year," Ashe said.

Giving grants

Council approved an annual grant for the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival for \$1,175 as well as a request from the junior naturalist camp to use the cultural centre property for its 2015 programming and for the setup of the township's large tent.

Council also approved the waiver of rental fees and in-kind contributions for the Minden Rotary Club for its Minden Bluegrass Festival, which will take place July 17 to 19 at the fairgrounds. Reeve Brent Devolin and councillors Jeanne Anthon and Jean Neville identified themselves as Rotarians.

Funding for parks plan

Minden Hills was successful in obtaining \$21,975 from the province's Rural Economic Development program for the creation of a parks and trails master plan for Minden Hills.

The grant represents half the required costs, with the township pitching in approximately \$12,000 and the remainder coming from the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Councillors authorized the reeve and treasurer to enter into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Former councillor-at-large Larry Clarke brought the project forward.

No winter mainenance for Riverwalk

As usual, the township will clear snow from the Loggers' Crossing foot bridge during the winter, but not the pathway along the Gull River. As Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch pointed out, trying to keep the path clear creates logistical problems since the snow being plowed from Invergordon Avenue and Water Street has to go somewhere.



Attention Residents of Minden Hills

The Times
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Proud to be part of our community.

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AH provides health hub funding

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

The municipality of Algonquin Highlands will lend financial support to the community health hub in Dorset, however moving forward the township is unsure of what the financial relationship with the facility will become.

Representatives of the Dorset Community Partnership Group, which is responsible for the project, Herb Hickling and Collin Reaney made a delegation to councillors at their Dec. 11 meeting, updating the township on the status of the hub, which received provincial funding earlier this year.

In November the Dorset Community Partnership announced that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care was providing one-time start-up funding for three years, to cover operating costs.

Hickling told members of council the group was now a registered charity and was in a strong financial position.

In the works for four years, the health hub is located in a renovated home within the hamlet of Dorset, which lies on the boundary of Algonquin Highlands and Lake of Bays.

The building is owned by the charity, which plans to lease it to the township, said Reaney.

The group is now working on funding streams for the project and would like to see a partnership established with Algonquin Highlands, including yearly funding to keep the building running.

"You're an investor [in the project]," said Reaney. "A huge portion of the clients are

your residents."

Reeve Carol Moffatt said the township committed to a one-time infusion of capital funding and wanted to know what expectation of ongoing financial contributions the group had.

Reaney said while there was no expectation, per se, the group would be coming to council on a regular basis seeking financial assistance.

"There's no debate the project is great," said Moffatt, adding the question was whether or not the township could sustain a long-term commitment.

Councillor Brian Lynch asked whether the municipality could see the group's financial statements, "to see that you are a strong financial group," he said.

Moffatt suggested the two townships sort out some details before moving forward and recommended Algonquin Highlands's chief administrative officer Angie Bird talk with her counterpart at Lake of Bays.

The reeve told both Hickling and Reaney that more communication was necessary and that councillors would like to see more regular visits from representatives of the project.

Later in the meeting councillors approved a \$20,000 financial contribution towards renovations of the health hub. The funds, which were committed by councillors at a March council meeting pending project approval, were taken from the nurse practitioner reserve.

Lake of Bays contributed \$30,000 towards the renovation.

The health hub will include a nurse practitioner on staff. The goal is to have the hub operating by spring of 2015.



Above, Minden Hills council is tendering the demolition of the Gelert hall. The township will retain the property as green space.

Left, this drive shed – also a former schoolhouse – on the Gelert hall property is also to be torn down.

Chad Ingram Staff

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Everyone Welcome

Minden Hills to demolish Gelert hall ... again

Volunteer group declines \$1 offer on building, riddled with mould and guano

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Minden Hills council is issuing a tender for the demolition of the Gelert hall.

Councillors passed the motion at their Dec. 11 meeting.

The previous council had voted to issue a request for demolition and removal of the aging building back in June, but, after a request from Ward 3 Councillor Jean Neville, passed a resolution in September to declare the property surplus and put it up for sale.

The volunteer committee that has maintained the building declined an offer to purchase the property for \$1 at their Sept. 23 meeting.

Previously, council had considered renovating the building, including foundation repair, new windows, furnace, septic bed and tank, well, drywall installation and the remediation of the mould and bat guano, with an estimated cost of \$200,000 or more.

The hall, which was constructed in the

1940s as a schoolhouse, has been closed to the public since March of 2012 due to issues with mould and bat guano.

What to do with the aging, seldom-used building has been discussed by Minden Hills councils for years.

A Dec. 11 report from property and environmental operations manager Ivan Ingram indicated putting the property on the market would require an environmental assessment that could cost up to \$20,000, plus legal and real estate fees.

Ingram's recommendation was for the building and a roads shed – itself an even older schoolhouse on the property, with the rear wall removed – to be torn down for an estimated cost of \$35,000 and for the township to retain the property as green space.

The reserves for the hall sit at approximately \$28,000, property reserves at approximately \$105,000. Neville said she didn't want the demolition cost to come out of the hall reserves.

The maintenance of the Gelert hall has been the responsibility of a citizen committee, whose members raised funds for the building.

Similar committees look after the halls in Lochlin and Irondale.

Following its years as a schoolhouse, the Gelert hall was used as an office for the former Snowdon township.

Take two for Teljeur with music festival

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Nearly three years after he first brought the proposal to the last Minden Hills council, John Teljeur was in council chambers on Dec. 11, requesting permission to host a large music festival at the Minden fairgrounds this summer.

The International Festival of Water would be a three-day festival including music by famous rock and blues acts, as well as authors, speakers and films focusing on issues of water protection. It would include onsite camping, give local organizations a chance to raise funds through concession stands and, according to Teljeur, come at no direct cost to the municipality.

As he was back in 2012, Teljeur was looking for the township to sign a three-year deal, with the first festival taking place this summer, in either July or August.

The event would be orchestrated and promoted by Wolfgang Siebert's Earthproductions.

"I am not paid by them, I am not incentivized by them," Teljeur told councillors off the top.

A community organizer, Teljeur helped bring the Canadian Pond Hockey Championships to Haliburton and is the founder of JT's Food Crusade, which grows and collects food for local food banks.

He organized the Fishstock blues concert, a fundraiser for the Haliburton hatchery, in 2011.

"Building festivals is very difficult, very challenging," Teljeur told councillors, explaining they generally lose money in their first year and can take a few years to acquire a critical audience. "It's not for the faint of heart. They're high-risk, but down the road, there's lots of reward."

While the event may be high-risk for the promoter, Teljeur stressed this would not be the case for the municipality.

"There are no costs that have to come from Minden Hills itself," Teljeur said, but added he was hoping for some in-kind contributions, such as the time of the township's volunteer firefighters.

His plan is to create a festival that will bring between 10,000 and 20,000 people to Minden for three days each summer.

The deal would give Minden Hills a cut of ticket revenue, starting at \$5 per ticket the first year, then \$7, then \$10.

Teljeur pointed to the significant financial challenges facing the township, including some \$2.4 million worth of work required at the arena and an OPP bill set to increase by nearly \$1 million during the next four years.

"We need to get creative in way to try to offset these costs," Teljeur said.

Local charitable organizations would be given first dibs at manning concession stands for the event and Teljeur said the plan was to establish a community fund to help with local events, including the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival.

"This is a sound strategy for putting heads in beds," Teljeur continued.

A report he submitted to council estimated the total economic impact for the community could be \$1.7 million.

As for the show itself, it would have a budget of some \$1.2 million, about half of which would go to pay the talent.

While Teljeur did not mention specific artists, he told councillors to look to London's Rock the Park and Mattawa Voyageur Days for examples of the types of acts they could expect.

Last year, Huey Lewis and the News, Burton Cummings, Matthew Good, Sammy Hagar and Friends and Weezer played the Rock the Park series and acts such as Cheap Trick, Emmerson Drive and Jason McCoy are lined up for this year's Mattawa event.

Councillor Jeanne Anthon wondered if it was getting late to be booking major acts for the summer season.

"The sooner we can give something to the promoters, the sooner we can get acts," Teljeur said.

Councillor Pam Sayne expressed concern there may be branding overlap with the children's water festival and wondered if the proposed event was too similar to the Minden Hills Bluegrass Festival.

Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch said she thought the township had missed an opportunity the last time around.

In 2012, councillors were told township counsel said the proposed agreement presented too much risk for the township.

Teljeur, via social media, contended that not all relevant information had gotten to all members of council and councillors have since confirmed they believe that to be the case.

Council granted the proposal approval in principle and voted the draft agreement be reviewed by legal counsel, that staff work with the promoter and that a report come back to council.

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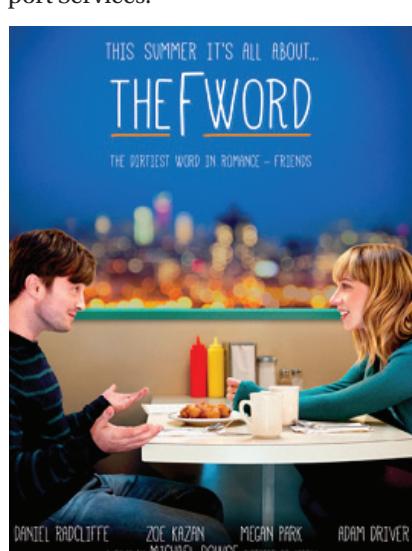
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The F-Word, a celibacy-based comedy set in Toronto, is available at the Haliburton County Public Library.

points of view



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The power of yes

YES MAN WAS A 2005 book and 2008 movie in which the main character, heeding the advice of a self-help guru, begins to say yes to every opportunity presented to him, the idea being that powerful, transformative things can happen if one simply says "yes."

During its first regular meeting last week, the new Minden Hills council said yes. It said yes to four-time world figure skating champion Kurt Browning when he asked council to extend the ice season at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena for three weeks so that he and the rest of the cast of Stars on Ice can rehearse for the series' 25th anniversary over four days in late April.

Cool, huh?

Browning said he'd meet the township halfway on the extra costs to keep the ice in – it will cost about \$1,500 a week in hydro, equipment and staff expenses – and the township will collect about \$1,800 in rental fees.

Instead of griping about liability or about a potential, relatively small financial shortfall – the extra weeks, it should be noted, will provide opportunity for additional rentals – councillors spotted a truly unique opportunity for Minden Hills and responded positively.

Browning also said he'd provide a seminar for local skaters and that at least some of the rehearsals could be opened up for public viewing.

It will be an invaluable experience for those kids and is just a nice thing for the community at large to have.

You know, like flower baskets.

The vibe in council chambers was markedly different than the



Chad Ingram
Reporter

overly litigious, needlessly bureaucratic atmosphere that existed during the last term.

And it was refreshing.

Minden Hills became a borderline nanny state during the last term, with new and apparently important policies, rules and licenses that many residents and organizations never knew they were missing.

Some events, a long-standing classic car show comes to mind, were even cancelled because the required paperwork was not completed properly.

Life isn't a comedy movie and of course the township shouldn't just blindly approve every request that comes its way.

Being responsible, particularly legally, is imperative, but creating frivolous bureaucratic

hoops is not.

Council should also say yes to mover-shaker John Teljeur and his proposal for a large-scale music festival at the fairgrounds during each of the next three summers.

Many small towns in Ontario host similar events – the Havelock Jamboree comes immediately to mind, but there are many examples.

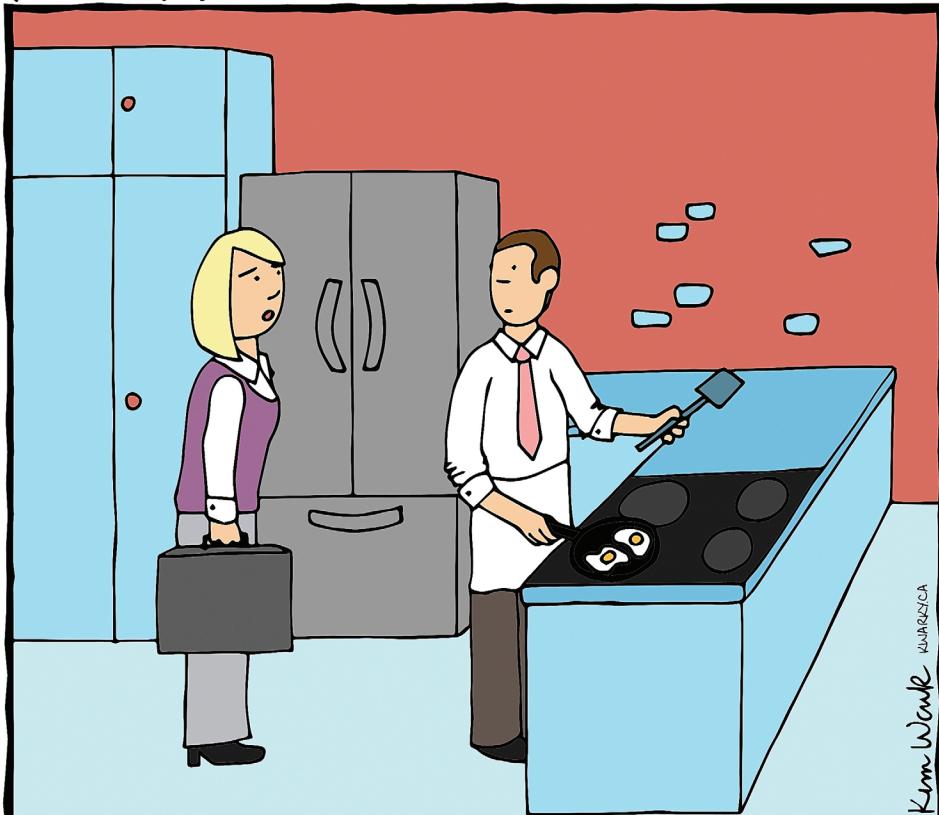
There's no reason Minden can't do it, and with no request for funding from the municipality, Minden Hills has very little to lose.

Get the agreement to a point where it's acceptable to legal minds and give it a chance.

As reader Andrew Cann wrote succinctly on the *Times* Facebook page, "We want tunes, not red tape."

And he's certainly not alone. Say yes to the fest.

KWARKY



"PLEASE TELL ME THEY AREN'T MY EGGS FROM THE FREEZER"

We need new lists

IF I SEEM A LITTLE perturbed of late, you can blame that on television's own Barbara Walters and her poor judgment. Apparently, – and not for the first time I might add – I'm not fascinating enough to make her list of the World's 10 Most Fascinating people.

I'm pretty sure I would have placed, if not for Oprah.

I know this might sound like sour grapes but, clearly, this list is a sham.

Look, I'm not saying Scarlett Johansson, Chelsea Handler, Neil

Patrick Harris, David H. Koch, Oprah Winfrey, Elon Musk, Michael Strahan, George RR Martin, Taylor Swift and Amal Clooney are not fascinating. I'm just saying, I doubt they possess a single good hunting or fishing story between them, which, of course, is the hallmark of truly fascinating people.

Need further proof I should have led that list?

Twice this year, I watched a bigger bass try to eat the smaller fish I had hooked. And once, while duck hunting, I watched a big pike swim by holding a perch in its jaws. Let's not even talk about the one-legged wood duck that my brother shot when we were hunting together or the time I witnessed a buck and raccoon standoff face to face.

I'm sorry Oprah, that's fascinating.

What about that time in June when I spent the whole day with my T-shirt on accidentally inside out, huh? Everyone I have told that story to, just shakes their heads and mutters, "fascinating."

And yet, once again, I never made Ms. Walter's list?

If you ask me, there is something fishy going on here.

I suspect this is probably all about the Hollywood elite scratching each other's backs.

Speaking of which, how come my buddy Tom isn't on that list?

He is a falconer who flies a Cooper's hawk and the other day it dug its claws into his fingers – and yet he still likes falconry. When he went for stitches his doctor also thought that was fascinating.

More than that, Tom cuts his own hair.

I think you can see that Tom and I are just two examples of people who are far more fascinating than say, Elon Musk.

All he did was found PayPal a host of other Internet sites and started companies whose goals are to rid the world of fossil fuels and travel to Mars. I doubt he even has much more than a conservation fishing licence.

And George RR Martin? I'm honestly not sure if his claim to fame is writing *Game of Thrones* or having the initials for railroad as a middle name? It doesn't even matter; I bet he never even got out in the deer season.

I just want to reiterate that I am not bitter.

Barbara "Poor Judgment" Walters is entitled to her own opinions however wrong they might be.

I am sure that T-Swizzle (or Taylor Swift as most of you know her) is only interesting because she's made millions singing and writing songs. Well, T-Stezzle (what my friends call me) is no slouch when it comes to music either.

The other day I was singing a blues song and Jenn came rushing down the stairs. When she got to me she asked, "Are you hurt?" which is exactly what the blues should convey.

How she figured that out from a few notes is nothing short of fascinating, but try telling that to Barbara.



Steve Galea
Beyond 35

points of view

Crazy like a fox

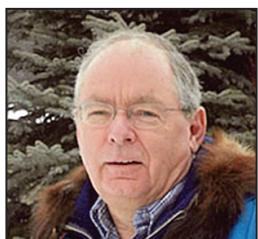
THAT WORRIED LOOK is back on the whiskered snouts of British foxes. They had been running less and grinning more since the government banned traditional horse and hound fox hunting 10 years ago. Now they have a new worry: hired gunslingers.

Londoners are paying private snipers to shoot the increasing numbers of foxes invading their yards and gardens. An estimated 10,000 foxes now call London home. The city has the world's highest known density of urban foxes. Folks complain the foxes are digging in gardens, rifling garbage and leaving smelly scat. They also have been accused of snatching flamingo chicks at the London zoo.

Snipers, using .22-calibre rifles with scopes and silencers, charge £75 for the first fox and £50 for each one after that.

No matter where they call home, life for foxes is no picnic. They are labelled bold and sneaky thieves when in fact they are just shy guys trying to bring home the bacon (or the chicken) for the family.

I admire foxes for their strong work ethic and their intelligence. I tire myself out following their tracks through my Back Forty. They wander relentlessly, stopping only occasionally to listen and scent. Every minute counts when the pursuit of food is a constant.



Jim Poling Sr.
From Shaman's Rock

Foxes taught native Indians how to decoy ducks at the edges of ponds or rivers. Ducks are highly curious critters who will investigate if they see something unusual, but non-threatening, happening on shore. The fox figured out that if he rolled about and acted silly on shore, ducks would come to see what the commotion was about. When they came close enough, the crazy fox lunged, and voilà, dinner.

Indians observed foxes luring ducks this way and devised the decoying trick of tying a fox skin to a long stick or cord and shaking it like a puppet to imitate a live fox acting silly. When the ducks paddled close to watch the fox the Indians tossed a net over them.

Clever hunters that they are, I've never seen a fat fox. Whatever calories they consume are burned quickly in the search for the next mouthful. They eat almost anything, from earthworms to berries, and fish they pounce upon in shallow water.

There's nothing more pathetic than seeing a disabled or diseased fox searching desperately for food. Last winter one wandered by our place hoping to scratch up a bit of seed that had fallen into the snow from the bird feeders. Mange had left him half naked, shivering and weak. I thought of shooting him, not because I feared he was dangerous, but to put him out of his misery. However, I knew he wouldn't live for long and perhaps whatever time was left would allow him to find a few more morsels for his family.

Foxes are never around for long. Their lifespan in the wild is only 18 months to two years. Their main predator is us, mainly in our autos speeding along the highways.

Foxes were given a couple of special tools to help them find food. They have superb hearing that allows them to hear earthworms moving in the grass or mice moving three feet under the snow.

Their eyes are especially tuned for night vision. Each eye has extra layer that reflects light back through the eye and doubles the intensity of images received. That's why their eyes glow green when a light is shined on them.

Most people are familiar with foxes' long sensitive facial whiskers that are like guidance antennae. But they have a second set of whiskers, on their legs, which also help them feel their way in the dark.

Don't be surprised to see a fox in a tree. They will climb up to low branches and settle there to watch and listen for something to eat.

Email: shaman@vianet.ca
Blogs: <http://onshamansrock.blogspot.ca/>

Email your letter to the editor to:
jenn@haliburtonpress.com

letters to the editor

A heartfelt thank you to rescuers

To the Editor,

On Saturday, Dec. 13, my son and I met a car accident on black ice on Gelert Road. Our Honda slipped, rolled over on its roof and plunged into the deep icy waters of the marshland on the side of the road. My son pushed open two doors on the driver's side and jumped out. We had unhooked the seat belts and I was thrown against the back of the car. The brackish waters reached my chin and trapped me tight in the back of the overturned car.

A Good Samaritan, sent from heaven was Mr. Chris Dobbins. He stopped, made all the emergency calls, packed my son in his car and he hooked a winch on the sinking car until emergency crews arrived. It was 45 minutes before the paramedics freed me. Neighbours arrived to help. Curtis Reid arrived to look after my 77-year old father who watched the horror his girl was experiencing. At the hospital in Minden, Dr. Helt and

his team began treating me for hypothermia. The police officer, Kevin Brown, and the emergency crew had to return to get clean dry clothes back on them.

As if that was not enough, they returned to care for me towards Lindsay and back. The trauma team of doctors, nurses, radiologists worked tirelessly for hours to bring my body temperature back to normal. I would publicly like to thank all of you who gave me such care. It is with deep sincerity this letter is being written as an acknowledgment for all the kindness you have showered on us since my parents moved to the community in 2002.

Meena Chakraburty-Bhaga
Grimsby, Ont.

Issuing a Christmas challenge

To the Editor,

As I read the weekly newspapers, articles and ads that promote or tell the stories of people helping those in need, at this very special time of year, I can't help but think of the invisible ones in our community - the ones we do not know need help.

Food basket programs, food banks, special programs for gifts for children. Haliburton County is very lucky to have wonderful programs to serve all sorts of very important causes. It is one of the reasons Haliburton County is so special: the caring and giving people.

But I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the people we don't know about. Those that go about their days with a smile on their face, go to work each day, or go about their daily business without anyone knowing they have no wood for their woodstove, or gas

to get to work tomorrow, perhaps are eating hot dogs, not because they like them, but because the \$10 in their wallet today is all they can purchase. Many people who need help never ask - never sign up at a food bank or for a community program. They are embarrassed, or just feel there are others that deserve the help more.

My challenge to everyone this Christmas is to think long and hard about a person or family that might be in this situation - help them. There doesn't need to be fanfare, just a quiet gift without words that says I want to help, and you don't need to ask. Merry Christmas everyone!

Terry Carr
Minden

No call for calm after 2010 election

To the Editor,

I read with particular interest Chad Ingram's editorial in the Dec. 3 edition of the *Times*. I find it curious that there was no call for calm and reason after the 2010 election. The name calling and vitriol that followed that election certainly didn't do much to bring "locals and cottagers" together.

I'm pleased to say that I haven't heard anyone gossiping about the current council and that is refreshing.

Perhaps Mr. Devolin et al will be able to get on with the job of governance knowing that they won't be under intense scrutiny from locals, cottagers, photographers, seasonal transients or Belgians.

It would have been interesting to see what the previous council would have done had they been afforded the same courtesy. That having been said I am happy to let Devolin do his job. We'll see where we stand in 2018.

Jon James

Follow our reporters on Twitter:



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THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
MINDEN, ONTARIO



Eight-month-old Kenna Ryalen enjoyed her first Stanhope Firefighters Christmas party and got to meet Santa Claus

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Stanhope Firefighters' Christmas Party

Julia Jennings gets ready for her present at the annual Stanhope Firefighters Christmas party on Dec. 13. Children of all ages attended the event, organized by the Algonquin Highlands Firefighters Association, where they ate treats, sang songs and got a present from Santa Claus.

Photos by Angelica Blenich



Ten-year-old Olivia Melle helps singer David Archibald out with the song *The Great Bear of Winter* at the annual Stanhope Firefighters Christmas party on Dec. 13.

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Radon gas in the home can be deadly

Health unit encourages people to test their homes for radon gas

With the arrival of the colder weather and people spending more time indoors, the local health unit is encouraging area residents to put their homes to the test to check for radon.

Radon is a naturally-occurring gas that is produced by the breakdown of uranium in soils and rocks. As it escapes into the environment, radon gas gets diluted and does not pose a health risk.

However, in confined spaces like homes, high levels of radon gas can accumulate and become a health hazard, warns the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Radon can seep into homes through many openings, such as unfinished floors, windows, pipes, sump pumps and cracks in the basement floor or foundation.

"Because people cannot see, smell or taste radon, it is important to test for radon to ensure the level in a home is within the Health Canada approved guidelines," says

Bud Ivey, a public health inspector with the HKPR District Health Unit.

Long-term exposure to high levels of radon in a home can increase the risk of developing lung cancer, Ivey notes.

"The only way to know if radon levels in your home are within acceptable levels is to test your home, and now is the perfect time of year to do that," he adds.

Health Canada has revised what it considers acceptable levels of radon in a home.

The current acceptable level for the amount of radon in indoor air is now 200 becquerels per cubic metre. Previously, the guideline had been four times higher than the new level.

People have two options to test radon levels in their homes. One way is to purchase a do-it-yourself test kit that is available at most hardware stores in a price range of \$25-\$75. Ivey stresses the importance of following the instructions for setting up the radon test and for sending it back to a lab for analysis when the testing period is over.

Another option for testing radon in a home is to hire a radon measurement service provider to do the work. Here, it is important to ensure the provider is certified and will conduct a long-term test, Ivey adds.

Based on the test results, people will need to determine what actions are required to reduce radon levels in their home.

“

Because people cannot see, smell or taste radon, it is important to test for radon to ensure the level in a home is within the Health Canada approved guidelines.

— Bud Ivey

The steps to do this are relatively easy and reasonably priced.

According to Health Canada, some of the steps that can be taken to reduce radon include: increasing the ventilation to allow an exchange of air, sealing cracks and openings in foundation walls and floors and around pipes and drains, and renovating existing basement floors, particularly earth floors.

For more information and resources on radon, call the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 or visit www.hkpr.on.ca.



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A toast to the winter games

Angelica Blenich

Staff reporter

Wine connoisseurs everywhere will be able to make an investment in the Ontario 55+ Winter Games, to be held in the Haliburton Highlands this February, simply by buying a bottle of red or white.

On Dec. 10, organizers of the Winter Games announced a special partnership with Colio Estate Winery, which will see a dollar from every bottle of two types of Colio wine go toward the games.

The featured wines are called Bricklayer Estates, which include a cabernet merlot and a pinot grigio/chardonnay blend, said general manager of the games Myke Malone.

"Both are VQA wines," he said. "It's all about if you're going to buy wine for Christmas, or New Year's, or gifting, buy that one and you're supporting the games."

Colio Estate Winery will be making the dol-

lar contribution on bottles of those two wines purchased from now until when the games take place, which is February 2015.

They can be found at 17 area LCBOs, as well as restaurants in and around Haliburton County, such as McKeeks, Pinestone Resort and Trading Bay Company.

The donation is still made if the wine is purchased while dining out, said Malone.

A display is set-up at each liquor store, with the featured wines and a sign promoting the games. In addition to announcing the partnership with Colio Estates, Malone had more news to share about the winter games, including an expansion to the hockey portion of the event. "We've added a women's 50+ tournament to the games," said Malone. "It's going to be an exhibition tournament on the Monday and the Tuesday." A first for the senior games, the tournament featuring women age 50 and over will take place on the two days prior to the start of the event.

"Women's hockey has never been in the

games before," said the general manager. "It's going to bring six more teams to town for two more days." Malone says the addition will promote the growing sport and be a boon for the area.



"They've got six teams competing," he said. "It's kind of cool."

The Ontario 55+ Winter Games are set to take place from Feb. 17 to 19, 2015 throughout Haliburton County. This will mark the second time the games have been hosted in the county.

The multi day event includes sports such as hockey, table tennis, curling and Nordic skiing.

Chair of the Ontario 55+ Winter Games, Alan Clark, left, and Mike Ross, area manager for Colio wines, celebrate a partnership between the wine company and the winter games at the Haliburton LCBO on Dec. 10. A dollar from every bottle of Colio wine sold from now until next February will go towards the games.

Marci Mandel Special to The Echo

Province recognizes local businesses as Ontario Signature Experiences

Ontario's Highlands is gaining momentum as an experiential travel destination according to the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation's inaugural list of Ontario Signature Experiences. The program showcases the best and most unique tourism experiences in the province carefully selected to motivate visits to Ontario from global markets. Four experiences in Ontario's Highlands have achieved status as Ontario Signature Experiences, gaining prestige and marketplace credibility by ful-

filling visitors' expectations for enriching and engaging travel experiences, and reinforcing a strong travel brand for the Ontario's Highlands region.

In order to become an Ontario Signature Experience, applicants must pass a rigorous evaluation and assessment process. Once businesses clear basic requirements, the corporation evaluates each entry to assess the organization's ability to engage visitors in memorable travel activities that are inherently personal on an emotional, physi-

cal, spiritual, intellectual or social level.

"We are thrilled Ontario's Highlands is so well represented on the inaugural list of Ontario Signature Experiences and commend the associated businesses for responding to visitors' desire for authentic travel experiences," says Nicole Whiting, executive director of Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization. "The OSE [Ontario Signature Experiences] features experiences that will be used to portray Ontario in marketing, media and sales materials, and we now have an opportunity to tell our regional story and leverage it through a new platform that reaches wider audiences."

Ontario's Highlands is well known for outdoor adventure. Rafting on the Ottawa River, for example, is world renowned because of the warm water and high adventure rapids; but it's the special touches, such as additional programming and connections with visitors, that sets OSE recipients OWL Rafting, Wilderness Tours, and RiverRun Rafting apart from other outdoor destinations.

The same is true for the canopy tour found at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve and the geology tour offered by Yours Outdoors in #MyHaliburtonHighlands. Both OSE recipients have gone beyond simply providing an opportunity for visitors to get outside. Through immersive programming, visitors leave feeling like they have truly connected with nature and with the people that have come to steward the environment.

"We are very excited that our 'Haliburton Rocks!' adventure has been designated as an Ontario Signature Experience," says Barrie Martin, experience broker for Yours Outdoors. "Not only will this recognition be

good for business, it will raise the profile of Ontario's Highlands as a destination that offers truly unique and memorable experiences."

The final recipient, Madawaska Kanu Centre in Barry's Bay, was the world's first kayak and canoe school. Family-owned and operated by past Olympians and nestled in the heart of the Ottawa Valley, the centre has introduced whitewater paddling to visitors from around the globe and to all ages. Not only is the business known for high calibre instruction but everything from their accommodations to the food has a local personal touch.

In addition to the associated prestige that comes with being named a signature experience, recipients receive marketplace credibility, worldwide recognition as part of the experience collection, increased marketing through the corporation partnership, increased packaging and cross-promotional opportunities with other OSE members, and strengthened business relationships with travel trade. "Together, our collaborative efforts will build a stronger industry, attract new visitors to the area and generate increased spending for the local economy," says Ronald Holgerson, president and CEO, OTMPC.

Ontario's Highlands is well-positioned to attract travellers looking to expand their horizons through more meaningful experiences and the OHTO has established industry initiatives to assist members in developing and offering experiential tourism opportunities for visitors. For more information on OHTO membership, initiatives, or becoming an Ontario Signature Experience, visit www.ohto.ca.

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Heat-Line plans for expansion, CEO tells Algonquin Highlands council

Company could use extra space, would like advance warning if land becomes available, Heise says

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

One of Haliburton County's biggest companies is looking at a possible expansion in the future.

President and CEO of Heat-Line Lorne Heise made a delegation to Algonquin Highlands councillors at their Dec. 11 meeting outlining the recent success and growth of the company adjacent to the Stanhope airport.

Specializing in manufacturing heating cable systems, the company has achieved incredible growth in the past year, said Heise.

In 2014-2015, Heat-Line saw an overall increase in sales and productivity by between 40 and 60 per cent, Heise wrote in a letter to council.

Currently the operation includes approximately 16 full-time employees and 16,000 square feet of floor space.

"That is not adequate," said Heise of the floor space.

The CEO said much to his chagrin, he just brought in a trailer for extra space, as there is no land to rent or lease.

Heise told councillors he just employed six new staff during the past six months.

"In the very near future we're going to need to expand," he said, citing Heat-Line as the most innovative and rapid growing company in the county.

Heise told councillors that if the township was going to have land available at the Stanhope airport he would appreciate knowing that ahead of time, to assist in his planning efforts.

A company primarily focused on research and development, Heise said Heat-Line's future could include doing manufacturing on the premises and if that were to take place it would position the company as the biggest employer in the county.

"We want to do it here," he said. "We can do it here."

Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen asked Heise what his immediate needs were to which Heise said storage.

"We're jammed there," he said.

Heise also suggested the township include caveats for future airport development, to ensure development was aesthetically pleasing.

At the meeting the CEO did not present any concrete planning documents outlining expansion, rather giving a verbal update on the company's current situation.

He welcomed councillors to come by the company's location for a visit of the operation.

Savouring



Marci Mandel
The Gift of the White Trail

WAITING in line for a coffee at the doughnut shop, I was in awe of all the wonderful combinations of sweetness in the glass case. The colours, the textures and the shapes were all just so delightful. How would one pick?!

And it wasn't just in the restaurant, but all around there seemed to be so many possibilities for wonderment: the volatile weather, the bubbly children, the perceptive artists, and the shifting seasons, how could anyone get bored?!

Some people like to compare the different times of year and even have their favourites. But I'm just in awe of the variety. Here we are at the beginning of winter, and with the snow fallen, there is a surrounding stillness that returns me to my garden. With the busyness of the season, I can reach out and invite it in at any moment to be nurtured. And with the sun so low in the sky, my photographer's eye delights in the more saturated and rich colours. Wow!

Cozy sweaters, hearty stews, snowshoeing where I couldn't hike: there is just so much to appreciate in this and every season and every moment.

I've found happiness comes from savouring what is, right here, right now. I could wish it was still summer with its care-free days and warm, short nights, but then I would miss out on the toboggan rides and the warmth and awe of the roaring fireplace.

One of the opposites of savouring is comparing. If I compare my body, house, clothes or whatever to others, I'm limiting my experience to my critical mind. But when I'm savouring life and all it has to offer, my whole body is open and humming. This is nirvana, this is bliss - being present and fully alive in the moment.

Another opposite of savouring is expecting. When I'm expecting people to act or look a certain way, I set myself up for limited experiences and probable disappointment. It is only by savouring what is that intimacy is possible. And those moments, I find, are what make life so precious.

Savouring, I am noticing as I write this, is about connecting and having a deep relationship, be it with a good friend, a guitar or an ice cream cone. It's something visceral that I can actually feel in my body. Mm, mm, good!

Comparing is more of an analytical process that happens in the cognitive mind and can easily be manipulated. For instance, whether you consider someone pretty or not depends on what you've learned from the culture you were raised in. But if you savour your relationship with that person, their beauty will shine whether they are wearing a tuque, sombrero or hijab.

This time of year, infused with the spirit of giving and with our dear ones close by, it feels only natural to stop and let every cell in our body rejoice in its aliveness.

What a sweet, abundant life we all have.
How could we not savour it?!

Previous columns can be found at: <http://whitetraillanding.blogspot.ca/>
Comments: whitetraillanding@gmail.com

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Traffic stop leads to multiple charges

Driving disqualified with open liquor, woman has car impounded

On Thursday, Dec. 11, an officer from the Haliburton Highlands OPP conducted a traffic stop on Highway 35 on the south edge of the Village of Minden.

The investigation revealed that the driver and lone occupant had been consuming alcohol. The officer made a demand for a roadside screening and the result of the subsequent test was a fail. The driver was arrested for over 80 and taken into custody.

Further checks showed that the driver was a suspended driver and a disqualified driver.

A check of the vehicle revealed an open container of liquor.

As a result the following charges were laid:

- Driving while Disqualified
- Driving while under suspension
- Driving with More than 80 mgs. of Alcohol in Blood
- Driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor

Charged is a 54 year old woman of Minden Hills. The vehicle she was driving was impounded for 45 days.

Two vehicle collision involving wheelchair bus

On Thursday, Dec. 11, at 8 a.m. officers from the Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to a two-vehicle head-on collision on Highway 118 in Algonquin High-

lands.

Both drivers sustained minor injuries and were transported to the Haliburton Hospital by ambulance.

One of the involved vehicles was an unloaded wheelchair bus. The second was a Ford Explorer. Both vehicles sustained substantial damage.

The Algonquin Highlands Fire Department also attended and assisted in the removal of the drivers.

As a result of the investigation the driver of the Ford Explorer, a 62-year-old woman from West Guilford was charged with the Highway Traffic Act offence of careless driving.

Festive RIDE update

During the week of Dec. 8 to 14, members from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Central Region Traffic Unit conducted 19 RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) at various locations within Haliburton County. More than 600 vehicles were checked.

Charges and Suspensions:

- Two Approved Screening Device Tests (Drivers who consumed alcohol but breath samples were less than 50mgs)
- One charge of Drive Disqualified
- One charge of Drive under Suspension
- One charge of Over 80
- One charge of Having Open Liquor
- One charge of Breach of Probation

Officers want to remind drivers that any amount of alcohol can impair one's ability to drive and that the OPP can issue an immediate roadside driver's licence suspension to drivers who register a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) in the "Warn Range" of .05 to .08.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP offic-

ers are in full force during the Festive RIDE campaign running from Nov. 24 until Jan. 2 and that RIDE stops can be conducted at anytime and anywhere in Haliburton County.

If you plan on drinking or consuming drugs, plan to not drive. Instead, arrange for a designated driver, take a taxi, or stay overnight.

www.mindentimes.ca



Recognizing 4WD's \$50,000 contribution to HHHF

Over the years, the Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationalists have donated \$50,000 to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and on Dec. 14, a group came together to recognize that milestone. From left, Peter Oyler, HHHF chairman; Varouj Eskedjian, CEO of HHHF; Peter Wood, president of the Federation; Chris Muir, head organizer of Camp NL Charity Trailfest; David Hunter and Adrian Collison, Just Jeeps (headline sponsor of Trailfest); and Dale Walker, executive director of HHHF. The Federation has been coming to Haliburton since 2001 to hold its Camp NL Charity Trailfest. Each August, they hold the event at South Wind Motel, bringing 300 people to stay for a weekend of trail riding.

Photo submitted

Radiothon nets local food banks \$17,600

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

Haliburton County showed its holiday spirit, giving \$17,640 to area food banks for the ninth annual Moose FM Radiothon.

On Thursday and Friday of last week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., county residents phoned in or walked in with their donations to the station.

On-air host Rick Lowes enjoyed being part of the event, but said the credit belongs to the generosity of the people in the county.

"It's a great feeling. We're like the facilitators ... or a conduit, I suppose, from the public to the food banks.

"It's great to see that so many people in the community are generous and willing to help out the community," he said.

"It makes us all feel good in the Christmas spirit kind of way."

He said some donors were former food bank clients, who donated because they were now in a position to do so - due in part to receiving help in the past.

They praised the food bank volunteers for their kindness and recalled how they were dealt with in a non-judgmental way.

The three hours the station was off the air

Friday morning because of technical difficulties factored in the lower-than-expected total. By the end of Thursday evening, Lowes said the donation total was ahead of last year's pace by close to \$4,000 and he thought there was a good chance to break \$20,000 before Friday.

Although this year's total is shy of last year's mark, which exceeded \$18,000, there is still a lot to appreciate. Every dollar helps, he adds.

"When you take that into consideration it all worked out," he said.

“

We're like the facilitators ...from the public to the food banks.

— Rick Lowes

Meat draws will resume Jan. 7

Legion br. 636



Whoohoo! Wasn't that a party! Minden Legion would like to thank everyone who turned out to hear the Highlands Trio perform last Saturday. As usual, the group did not disappoint the full house audience. Their unique mix of country and folk songs had people up dancing, and there were also some great open mic sessions, including one lady named Cathy who sang so beautifully Can I have this Dance? The food was delicious, thanks to Judy, one of our volunteer cooks. We look forward to setting the next date when Highlands Trio will be back again.

This Wednesday, Dec 17 from noon to 2 p.m. is another very popular time, as Minden Legion is serving a Christmas turkey dinner with all the fixings. There will also be special meat draws with Christmas hams and turkeys. This will be the last Wednesday meat draw until Jan. 7, so be sure you don't miss out. And speaking of missing out, my

name appeared on the poster for the Legion's Pot of Gold, with a big "NO", meaning I hadn't signed in! The pot keeps on growing. As of last Friday, it's over three digits . . . can't tell you what they are, come on in with your loonie and find out.

Next weekend, the Sunday afternoon sports fans will be bringing a non-perishable food item or something for the local Christmas toy drive. The clubroom is open from 1 to 5 p.m., the public is welcome to join us and bring something to donate to those in our community who are less fortunate.

Operation Santa Claus is now underway. Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion has packaged up more than 1,000 Christmas gifts for delivery to Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP personnel deployed overseas in the days leading up to Christmas. "The Legion has a long-standing tradition of sending a package to our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who are deployed overseas during the Christmas Season and on Canada Day," says Dominion President Tom Eagles. "It's a little gift but it means a lot and continues our tradition dating back to WWII, of letting those serving away from home know that

we are thinking of them on these special occasions". This year's package, "A Taste of Home" includes: Dulse, Tim Horton's coffee packages, popcorn, Kerr's maple candies and beef jerky, as well as personal items, Legion pens and Legion key chains.

In other news from Dominion Command, "The Legion is calling on all of our members, and all Canadians who care about our Veterans and their families, to send a letter prepared by the Legion to their Member of Parliament urging the Government take the needed action now to improve the New Veterans Charter. The Legion is very disappointed that the recommendations listed in Phase Two of the announcement, those which have the greatest financial impact on both Veterans and their families, again appear to be sidelined by the repeated phrase 'requires more due diligence'. As each day passes, Veterans and their families in need of assistance will continue to be adversely affected by this Government's inaction." To read the background on this letter-writing campaign, go to <http://www.legion.ca/the-latest/campaigns/call-for-action-on-the-new-veterans-charter/>

Celebrate with Christmas Eve service

Melissa Alfano

Dorset News

705-766-0076

malfano@hotmail.ca

Christmas Eve service times at the local Anglican churches are 4:30 p.m. at St. James, Port Cunnington, 7 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene's (winter location at Knox United), 7 p.m. at St. James, Gravenhurst and 9 p.m. at St. Ambrose, Baysville. For more information, email Reverend Heather at lakeofbaysanglican@hotmail.com or call / text 705-641-8787.

The Dorset Recreation Centre and Dorset Branch of the Haliburton County Public Library will be closing at noon on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24 and will re-open for regular operating hours on Friday, January 2.

Very exciting youth programming is coming our way! The Algonquin Cooperative Development Corporation has obtained funding and support from the Haliburton County Development Corporation and Sticks and Stones Productions to provide a "Youth Vine Making Workshop Series". The workshops are open to youth ages 9 to 16 and will be offered at the Dorset Recreation Centre. Sessions take place on Sundays January 11, 18, February 8 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$20 for the 4 workshops or \$5 each.

The group will be creating four six second Vine videos about Dorset and surrounding area. The series will edu-

cate youth bout the area they live in and about the impact their online posts can have. The first workshop will incorporate an information session on smart online posting for both youth participants and parents. Participants are asked to bring an allergy free lunch. There will be a public launch party with date to be determined in March. To find out more or to sign up contact Sarah Coombs at info@v3productions.ca or call 705-783-9427.

I hadn't heard of Vine before and a quick Google search revealed that this short-form video sharing service was founded in June 2012, acquired by microblogging website Twitter in October 2012 and officially launched in January 2013. The service allows users to record and edit five to six-second long looping video clips, and to "revine", or share others' posts with followers. Some Vines are revived automatically based on what is popular. The videos can be published through Vine's social network and shared on other services such as Facebook and Twitter. Vine's app can also be used to browse through videos posted by other users, along with groups of videos by theme, and trending videos. Sounds pretty cool - can't wait to see what the kids come up with!

Birthday wishes for Dec. 14 to 20 go out to Cameron Nash, Thomas Keown, Jeaninne Dunn, Barb Jordan, Tony Arkell, Jim Jones, Peter Brooks, Caitlin Davies and happy anniversary to June and Bill Johnson and Diane and Boyd Griffin. If you have items or birthdays for the Dorset News, please send them to malfano@hotmail.ca or give me a call at 705-766-0076.



Follow us
@MindenTimes

Special Holiday Hours

Closed Dec 24th - 26th
Open Saturday the 27th 9-5
Dec 31st 7:30-12
Closed Jan 1st
Open Friday Jan 2nd
Reg Hours (7:30-5:30)

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Celebrate the True Spirit of Christmas
 at Minden United Church
 21 Newcastle Street, Minden

Sunday Dec. 21st
 11am - Worship Service
 Message Rev. Max Ward - "A Season Of Song"
 Followed by Coffee & Cookies Social Time

7pm - Christmas Musical Presentation by the Joint Choirs of Zion & Minden Churches
 Followed by "Sweet Taste of Christmas"
 delicious goodies (by donation)

Wednesday December 24th 7pm
Christmas Eve Family Service
 A Service of Carols & Lessons
 With lots of opportunities to sing those favourite carols, and with Inspiring candlelight closing

Sunday December 28th 11am
Community Joint Service with Minden, Zion & Maple Lake United Churches
 Followed by a delicious Soup & Sandwich Lunch
 Rev. Max Ward 705-286-1470

Please Join Us for Our Christmas Celebrations

COME AND HEAR
Minden & Zion joint choirs
Present a
Christmas Musical
"COME AND ADORE HIM"
at

MINDEN UNITED CHURCH
21 Newcastle, Street, Minden

on
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
at 7:00 PM
followed by
"A Sweet Taste of Christmas"
goodies in the lowerhall
by donation

EVERYONE WELCOME

Everyone in the Minden area is invited to any one of our Family Christmas Specials

Sunday Dec 14th @ 10:30
 ~ Concert and Carol Sing

Sunday Dec 21st @ 10:30
 ~ Carol Sing and Christmas Story

Wednesday,
Family Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service @ 5:30 ~ 6:30 pm

Sunday December 28th @ 10:30
 ~ Coffee with God

Come and Enjoy Carol Sing by Candlelight
Hear the Christmas Story Come Alive
Could be the highlight of your Christmas

Minden Bible Church
 177 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden ON 705-286-1338



Highlands summer festival 2015 Live Theatre

Make it a Dramatic Christmas

Scot Denton, Artistic Producer

what's on
STAGE
THIS SUMMER?

Lend Me A Tenor by Ken Ludwig

We begin the season with quite possibly the funniest play written in the past 30 years. Set in the 1930s, *Lend Me A Tenor* is a madcap screwball comedy. Tito Merelli, the fiery-tempered and world famous Italian superstar, arrives in Cleveland, Ohio to make his debut with the local opera and promptly goes missing. As Saunders, the show's presenter, conspires to cover for Tito's absence, placate his hot-blooded wife, and distract his most passionate fans, chaos on a truly operatic level ensues. There is lots of slamming doors and characters in their underwear, so you know it will be an uproarious evening.

JUNE 29 - JULY 3 | JULY 6-9 @ 8pm



One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest by Dale Wasserman

Randle McMurphy is the newest patient at a mental facility. We quickly learn McMurphy isn't actually crazy, but a charming, funny rebel who pretends to be insane in order to serve out his prison sentence at the asylum instead of hard labour at a work farm. When he meets the cold and controlling Nurse Ratched, whom he immediately clashes with, he quickly learns his plan was a mistake. His outrageous actions change the conditions for the better, until he faces the ultimate showdown with Ratched in a heartbreak ending that is both powerful and uplifting. A hilarious and poignant play. JULY 13-17, 22-24 @ 8pm



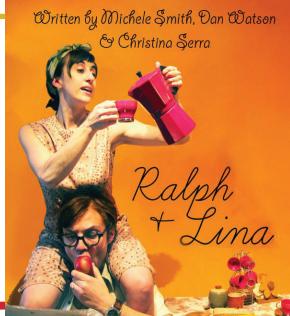
Wingfield Lost And Found by Dan Needles, starring Rod Beattie | Directed by Douglas Beattie

In the midst of a record drought, wells on the Seventh Line are drying up. A search to locate a new well on Wingfield Farm ensues, but distractions abound: a high-tech cattle drive, a battle with yellow jackets, a feud with a red-tailed hawk, an eccentric line-up of water witches and a well driller who is only too happy to perforate the ground at forty dollars a foot. More than an environmental comedy, *Wingfield Lost and Found* is a whimsical reminder that searching can turn up more than what is lost and teach us the value of more than what is found. JULY 19-21 @ 8pm

Nunsensations! by Dan Goggin

The Nunsense Vegas Revue takes the Little Sisters of Hoboken on a brand new adventure. When a parishioner volunteers to donate \$10,000 to the sisters' school if they will perform in a club in Las Vegas, Mother Superior is hesitant to accept. However, after being convinced by the other sisters that 'what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas', Reverend Mother agrees. What follows is the most feather-filled, sequin-studded, fan dancing Nunsense show ever. *'Nunsensations!'* is a whole lot funny and a little bit naughty, but there ain't nothin' dirty goin' on!

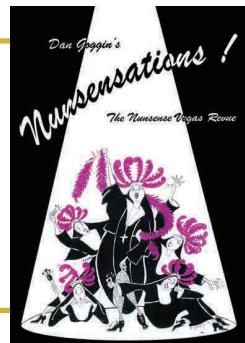
JULY 27-3 | AUGUST 5-7 @ 8pm



Ralph + Lina by Michele Smith, Dan Watson & Christina Serra

Ralph + Lina is a rough and tumble romance which follows the struggles of two Italian lovers in the face of war, immigration and old age. In the vein of early Fellini, this award-winning creative team of Michele Smith and real life husband and wife Dan Watson and Christina Serra, dives into their family history to explore love, dedication and courage in a passionate, acrobatic comedy that reinvents the modern melodrama. Ralph and Lina's happiness is hard won and true.

AUGUST 2 @ 2:30pm | AUGUST 3-4 @ 8pm



Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass
All 5 Shows
Only \$150.

Single ticket prices \$34. each
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HighlandsSummerFestival.on.ca

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Only \$90.

Includes: Le Nozze di Figaro, our Opera Double Bill, and one Concert

Single ticket prices
Classes \$15 | Concerts \$32.50 |
Operas \$37.50 | Gala \$50

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Call the box office

705.457.9933

or Toll Free **855.457.9933**

All performances take place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (NLPAP) in Haliburton, unless otherwise noted.

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General Director Artistic Director

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MASTERCLASSES | RICHARD MARGISON

JULY 30, 31 & AUGUST 1 @ 7pm | St George's Anglican Church | Haliburton

CONCERTS

THE ART OF SONG

Song repertoire from around the world & through the ages
AUGUST 4 @ 8pm | St George's Anglican Church | Haliburton

FROM OPERA TO BROADWAY

AUGUST 11 @ 8pm | St George's Anglican Church | Haliburton

MORE OPERA TO BROADWAY

AUGUST 13 @ 8pm | Minden United Church | Minden

CELEBRATIONS!

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Sound of Music, along with other selections from film & stage AUGUST 17 @ 8pm | St George's Anglican Church | Haliburton

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO PURCHASE HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO SEASON PASS VISIT:

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FUNDRAISER

GALA IN THE GARDENS

Popular arias and ensembles from the Operatic repertoire with
orchestral accompaniment
AUGUST 8 @ 7:30pm | INCLUDES PRE-PERFORMANCE RECEPTION
@ 6pm | Abbey Gardens | Haliburton

OPERA DOUBLE-BILL

THE VINEDRESSERS & ANOTHER SHORT OPERA TBA

New Canadian Opera by Tobin Stokes | AUGUST 19 & 21 @ 8pm

MAIN PRODUCTION

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

The Marriage of Figaro – an opera classic by Mozart
AUGUST 30 @ 2pm & SEPTEMBER 1, 2 & 3 @ 7:30pm



Minden team win Oshawa bonspiel

On Saturday, Dec. 13, a Bantam team playing out of the Minden Curling Club was victorious at the Bantam Invitational Curling Bonspiel at the Oshawa Curling Club.

The team consists of, from left, vice Emma Cox, skip Alyssa Denyer, second Tori Hawley and lead Emma Seed-Binnie.

The girls played solidly from start to finish and their hours of practice really showed. The team is coached by Russ Duhaime. Their next action is the Toronto Curling Association play downs during the Christmas break. The team is also preparing for the Ontario Curling Association play downs in 2015.

The team wants to thank their sponsor for their generous support: Scotto Electric, Dollo's Foodland, The Rotary Club of Fenelon Falls and Subway Restaurant of Fenelon Falls.

A second team from the Minden Club also did very well at the same bonspiel coming third in the sixteen team competition. The team is made up of skip Cody Williams, vice Sam Pilcher, second Seb Muli and lead Dan Murdoch. They are coached by Scotty Boyd.

Submitted by Sean Hawley



Santa surprises at Canskate

Santa made a surprise visit to the SG Nesbitt Memorial arena to join the Minden Skating Club's Canskate group on Monday, Dec. 15. Isaac Little Photo

Notice



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the *Planning Act* and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT at its meeting to be held **Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Administration Building, County of Haliburton Office, 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario, these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-038/14
Applicant: TRUSTCO SUB LIMITED
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
Nature of the Application: Right-of-way
2. File No. H-039/14
Applicant: MBHD HOLDINGS LTD.
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 20, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
Nature of the Application: Right-of-way
3. File No. H-040/14
Applicant: Heather BEAMISH
Location of the Property: Pt. Lots 19 & 20, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
Nature of the Application: Right-of-way
4. File No. H-043/14 & H-044/14
Applicant: Kenneth DONNELLY, Frances YUILL & John DONNELLY
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 11, Concession 10 & 11, together with the road allowance between Concessions 10 & 11, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
Nature of the Application: 2 New Lots
5. File No. H-047/14
Applicant: Gail & Bern BOMBARDIER
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Livingstone
Nature of the Application: Lot Addition
6. File No. H-048/14
Applicant: Tina FORBES
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Livingstone
Nature of the Application: Lot Addition

Additional information regarding any of the above-noted applications is available for public inspection at the Land Division Office by appointment during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 17th day of December, 2014

Michele Moore
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 248
Fax: (705) 286-4829
E-mail: mmoore@county.haliburton.on.ca

Hawks ballers bring Titans down to earth

Gord Cochrane

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks senior basketball team travelled to Lindsay on Monday, Dec. 8 and defeated the St. Thomas Aquinas Titans senior basketball team 38-30.

The Red Hawks were ahead at the end of the first quarter, 9-5, and extended their lead at halftime to 21-14. In fact, the Red Hawks led throughout the entire game, leading 30-22 at the end of three quarters.

Although the Hawks left with a win, the team committed 24 turnovers.

They fell well short of keeping the team's

turnover goal of 10 and continue to work hard to reduce the turnovers, as part of the team's three season goals: turnovers, rebounds and getting inside on offence.

The Red Hawks were led in scoring by Hunter Smith. Smith scored 13 points and leads the team for the season. He was followed in scoring by Cody Bain with eight, Nick Thompson with five, and Devon Bangay with three.

Cody Bain was the top rebounder for the Red Hawks, hauling in seven rebounds. Smith and Thompson weren't far behind, each grabbing five rebounds.

Angus Sullivan led the team in steals, making three steals. He also drew two charging fouls.

They fell well short of keeping the team's



NOTICE

Notice is hereby provided that the Township Office located at 1123 North Shore Road will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2014 at 12:00 noon to Friday, January 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

The Township Office located at 1051 Main Street in Dorset will be closed from Monday, December 22, 2014 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Dawn Newhook,
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
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Hawks senior volleyball team finishes a tough tournament

Above, the Red Hawks senior power Rebecca Anderson spikes a ball against the Brock Bulldogs this past Monday in Haliburton during a tournament. After five matches, the Hawks showed its fatigue, losing 0-2 (10-25 and 11-25). The Hawks finished the tournament with a pair of 1-1 splits against St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School and Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute and three 0-2 losses against Fenelon Falls Secondary School, I.E. Weldon Secondary School and Brock High School.

Right, the Red Hawks senior power Alyssa Denyer jumps to meet a short ball from an opponent this past Monday in Haliburton during a tournament.

Photos by Darren Lum

Health Unit Holiday Hours

The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on: December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1.



Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us!

minor hockey

Jets and Storm clash in Wilberforce

The Bancroft Jets came to Wilberforce to take on the RM Carpentry Atom A Storm, and as fans from both teams remarked, this is always an entertaining game. It did not disappoint, as this was a hard fought affair. Both teams came out like a bat out of H, E, double hockey sticks. The first period was a head to head close checking battle resulting in a nil nil stalemate. Early in the second, a loose puck squirted out of the key towards the zone. Storm boarder guard Hutchinson jumped forward with his stick raised for the one timer, released the howitzer, and left a crater in the back of the net to take a 1-0 Storm lead.

Storm net minder Maddock made a brilliant save with his face, a scramble in the crease ensued and the Jets tied it up. Two more from the Jets made the score 3-1. Late in the third, Winder pressed hard, taking the puck up the wing to his office behind the net, where he made a precision pass out front on the stick of Robinson who buried it to bring the Stom within one.

With eight seconds before the conclusion, the Storm pressed hard with defenceman Glecoff and his cohorts trying to will the puck to the Bancroft goal, but it was too little too late as the Jets edged the Storm 3-2 in this very entertaining clash of rivals.

Submitted by Jason Glecoff

Close game for Novices

This weekend the Canadian Tire Novices came out with one win and one loss. Friday night's game against Bancroft proved to be an exciting game. Both teams worked hard and were determined to win. But Highland Storm came out on top with a 1-0 win.

Sunday sent the Canadian Tire Novices to Huntsville to play against the Otters. Storm knew that this was going to be a tough game. The otters came out scoring first to start the game off. Storm battled hard but wasn't getting the puck past the Otters goaltender. The Otters got another one taking the lead 2-0. Not long after Storm got on the board putting themselves right back in the game. The Otter managed to squeak one more past our goaltender giving them a 3-1 lead. But Storm wasn't giving up we got a second goal to cut their lead by only one. Storm continued to attack the Otters' net pulling out all the stops to tie up the score. In the end storm lost by one final score was 3-2.

Come out to cheer on The Canadian Tire Novices on Friday night in Wilberforce at 7 p.m. when they play the Bancroft Jets.

Submitted by Tracey Gilbert

Atom AE hosts Silver Stick qualifier

On Saturday, Dec. 6 the JoAnne Sharpley's Atom AE team hosted the Silver Stick qualifier. The Storm started the morning early against a major Atom team from Woodstock. The second year team proved to be strong, shutting down the Storm on every attempt. The Storm fell short losing 11-0. The Storm in their second game faced a fellow MPS team in the Oro Thunder. The thunder opened the scoring but the Storm came back and got one of their own with a goal by Kaine Brannigan assisted by Kyan Hall. The Thunder managed to get another making it 2-1 going into the second. The Thunder prevailed scoring three more to make the final 5-1. The Storm faced the port hope phantoms in their final game of the day. With the phantoms going up 3-0 in the first the storm tried to fight their way back but fell 5-0. On Sunday it was Woodstock and port hope for the championship game, Woodstock won the game 5-1 making them the tournament champions. The atom AE team would like to thank our sponsors for the tournament Innovative construction, Ecoscapes, Walker's Heating & Cooling, Tom prentice and sons, Sir Sams Ski & Bike, Todd's Independent, Kashaga paint, JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports, TD Minden, Minden coin wash, CPS (control panel systems) and the Crowe family. We would also like to thank Wade MacInnes for all your help, you do a great job organizing everything to make it so easy for the teams to run the tournaments. Thanks to Tim Keefer for being our tournament convenor you did a great job! Also a big thank you to all our parent volunteers who helped run this tournament you are what makes the tournaments successful. Next game is Tuesday, Dec. 16 in

Minden at 6:30 p.m. against the South Muskoka Bears. Submitted by Ron Hall

Tournament Champs One Day - A Loss the Next

The Storm returned home champs after attending a tournament in Campbellford on Saturday. Games were exciting and fun-filled for everyone, as the teams were all well-matched. Storm won their first game 3-1. Devyn Prentice scored two and Patterson-Smith got the empty netter to seal the win. Next, they met with the home team, Campbellford. It was a close, hard-hitting game of back and forth action. The Storm loss the game 3-1. The only goal scored by Patterson-Smith. The final game was against the Campbellford Colts once more. This time, the Storm was ready and took the game 3-1. Goal scorers were Jacob Haedicke, Manning and Patterson-Smith. Congratulations boys, well done.

The Storm travelled to Gravenhurst on Sunday to meet with the South Muskoka Bears and suffered a 3-0 loss. It was definitely not the usual game for the Storm, giving up a goal each period. Although, they had many chances, luck was not on their side, marking their first loss in the regular season.

The Highland Storm Bantam A team is proudly sponsored by Smolen Dentistry.

Submitted by Suzanne Haedicke

Midget AE team makes it to semi finals

Walker's Heating and Cooling Midget AE hosted the Silver Stick tournament this past weekend. Hosting teams from: Tweed, Campbellford, Blyth Brussels, Dorchester, Kincardine, Ennismore and South Muskoka.

With many exciting games Walkers Heating and Cooling Midget AE's made it to the semi finals where we were beat by Blyth. The next semis saw Blyth beat Kincardine.

Final game was Blyth against Dorchester. Dorchester would take home the win. Good luck to Dorchester in the International Silver Stick. Next game is this Friday in Haliburton.

Submitted by Monika Keefer

Tykes play first tournament

On Saturday, Dec. 6, The Tom Prentice & Sons Tyke team travelled to Woodville for their first tournament of the season.

They started off the first period with shot after shot on the Woodville Panthers Goalie. Ty Rupnow got the game moving with deaking the goalie to start the game. Addison Card squeaked the second goal in.

Woodville came back with a quick five-hole goal. Second goal for Woodville slipped past Storm during the second period. Third goal for storm by Ty Rupnow.

Woodville tied it up in the 3rd period. Storm came ahead with Ty Rupnow's first hat trick of the tournament, ending the first game 4-3 for Storm.

Second game vs Brock started out with a goal slipping in behind the goalie by Ty Rupnow. Brock quickly tied it up. After lots of shots on net, Ty put in another.

Colby Coumbs rushed the puck and drove the puck into the back of the net. Josh Scheffee received a pass and lifted the puck into the net. Colby Coumbs rushed the puck again, scoring. Off another face off, Storm piled up another, when Cheyenne Degeer snuck in 2 more.

Third period, Mak Prentice got another. Connor Byrne ended the game with rushing the puck to end with a 9-1 win, moving Highland Storm on to the "A" finals.

In the finals, Storm vs Lindsay Muskies, Colby Coumbs started us off with a rush up the ice slamming the puck in the net. Ty Rupnow popped in another. Mak Prentice slipped another in the top right corner. Both, Kadin Card and Colby Coumbs earned hat tricks in this game!

Nice breakaway by Lindsay brought them onto the score board, but not enough to even the score. The game ended

7-1, making Storm the Woodville Tournament Champs! Great effort and team play by all! Keep up the hard work Storm!

Submitted by Andrea Prentice



The tykes played their first tournament Dec. 6.

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Farmhouse mice get their caffeine fix

Patti Fleury

Around the Town

705-488-2938

brucefleury1@hotmail.com

Here at the old farmhouse mice have been more of a problem than most years. Our two staff security personnel Clarence and Jake seem oblivious to pest control being part of their job descriptions and I am too squeamish to empty bodies from snap traps however more humane. This past week it became apparent that the most recent offenders must be adolescents. We knitters, sewers and quilters are notorious for keeping "stashes." With Bruce his "stash" is Keurig single serve coffees in an impressive variety of plain options - no flavoured or latte there to be found. The one exception on hand for Ben's visits is hot chocolate with the last bearing the Laura Secord's brand no less. Last Friday's cold brought my suggestion to good neighbour Wayne during coffee break that he make himself a special treat of hot chocolate. It was quite

embarrassing to find the box filled instead with totally empty, chewed open small plastic containers and mice calling cards. For the past two years the coffee pods have never been touched. Thankfully the marshmallow stash stayed safe in the pantry and the Rediwhip in the fridge out of reach of those teenage marauders.

Speaking with Dave Anderson of the Kinmount and District Lions Club after the Carol Service yesterday he confirmed that items from under the Angel Trees will be collected on Wednesday, Dec. 17 to become part of the hampers for needy families in our area. Donations of a new, unwrapped toy or non-perishable food items are both most welcomed. Apparently the most difficult age group to provide gifts for is the teens and while gift cards are one suggested option an actual present to open on Christmas morning is still appropriate. Watch for one of the club's fundraisers this season with chocolate covered almonds, a great stocking stuffer, available at some local businesses.

Speaking of stockings and stashes are you still stocking up on your items for your

winter reading? The December Book Sale by the Friends of the Library is coming up this Saturday, Dec. 20 on the lower level of the Kinmount Branch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations of good used books (no texts or magazines please) are most welcomed to assist in this monthly fundraising effort and can be dropped off in the marked receptacle beside the lower level doors at any time. For holiday hours and programs give the branch a call at 705-488-3199.

Considering plans about how to ring in the New Year 2015? At the Legion Branch 441 Kinmount there will be a New Year's Eve Potluck Party on Dec 31 starting at 7 p.m. The program will include a variety of activities to help you celebrate with music, dancing, shuffleboard, darts and cards all part of the evening. Admission is free and non-members welcome. On New Year's Day President Marylou Ferguson will host the annual president's Levee from 2 to 7 p.m. with everyone welcome to drop by and enjoy the festivities and fellowship.

There are so many regular activities going on during the week here in Kinmount ranging from pre-school programs through

Brownies, yoga, tai-chi, cards and bingo. For schedule changes during the holidays check with the convenor or facility and visit kinmount.ca. The *Kinmount Gazette* is a great resource for information as well.

Now for some assorted trivia. If you're expecting a new baby in the family apparently the top two baby names over 2014 were Jackson and Sophia while other popular choices from Netflix were Frank and Clare and from the new hit TV show Orange is the New Black Gelena, Nikki and Piper. Also according to Miriam-Webster dictionary the most frequently used newer word in 2014 was "culture" with a far wider interpretation including reference to such things as a "coffee culture". Google reported a total of two trillion searches over the year with some of the most frequent being the Ice Bucket Challenge raising funds for ALS, Robin Williams, the Winter Olympics, the still unsolved Malaysian Airline tragedy and closer to home Rob Ford and the late federal finance minister Jim Flaherty.

Until next week...



County card scores

by Patti Fleury

488-2938

brucefleury1@hotmail.com

December 9 contract bridge at Club 35: At 5,180 Linda Cherry led the scoring followed by Ross Fletcher 5,170, Ross Davies 5,070 and Sandy McKay 4,910 with the Lucky Loonie awarded to Nel Van Der Grient. Please note that there will not be bridge at Club 35 on December 23rd but play will resume on December 30th.

December 9 contract bridge at Minden United Church: Nancy Ballantyne reports that the high scoring trio members were David Gray 5,240, Catherine Kellett 4,280 and Jan Heaven 4,100. She reminds that there will be cards next Tuesday then a holiday break until January 6, 2015.

December 9 Mixed Shuffleboard at Stanhope Firehall: Top marks went to Connie Sawyer and June Fortune at 323 then our reporter Pearl Cowen and Joan Bell 313. In third spot at 304 was Eleanor Lymer partnered with Marg Oetelaar while Yvonne Arbuthnot and George Hamilton posted the afternoon's low of 219.

December 9 Minden Seniors bid euchre at Minden Legion: Leading ladies were Bev Johnson 333, our reporter Betty Wagar 278, Pat Roussel 263 and Shirley Milne 261. Tied for first for the gents at 277 were Marcel Roussel and Karen Chapman followed by Kevin Maloney 239 and Archie Ross 230. Garth Windsor won the major draw and also a smaller prize along with Jesse Barlow and Phyllis Windsor while Tom Grix, Karen Chapman, Ida Young and Bev Johnson [2] took the moonshots.

December 9 euchre at Lochlin Community Centre: Nancy McPherson reports that lone hand honours went to Rae Dawn Shepheard with Tracey Dyson high lady and Gala Newell low. For the gents Harold Harvie took top marks with Gord Darby low man while Tracey Dyson was the draw winner.

December 10 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Playing Howell Irena and Alek Zworski were first at 63 percent then Linda Cherry and Carol Bowker 56 percent. In third place was Heather Lindsay.

partnered with Mary Johnson 54 percent. Please note that there will not be cards at Parklane on December 24th or 31st.

December 11 bid euchre at Minden Community Centre: For the ladies Muriel McIntosh led at 262 then Marcy Morgan 228, Karin Harrison 192 and our reporter Bev Johnson 186. At 327 Doug McIntosh took top marks for the gents followed by Tom Arnold 181, Kevin Maloney 171 and Jesse Barlow 151. Muriel McIntosh held the hidden score with husband Doug winning the card draw and Bev Johnson the call 1. Tom Arnold took the Christmas draw prize while Marcy Morgan, Jesse Barlow and Bev Johnson claimed the moonshots.

December 12 contract bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: Playing Howell top marks went to Margo Davidson and Peter O'Connor 72 percent then Diane James and Jackie Metcalfe 64 percent and our bridge reporter Muriel McIntosh partnered with Ross Davies 52 percent. Muriel reminds that there will not be bridge at Echo Hills on December 26th but play will resume on January 2, 2015.

December 12 euchre at Staanworth Court, Minden: Winning for high hands was Judy Reddy, for lone hands Bev Johnson, for low hands Nick Boekestyn and for the special prize Arthur Forbes. Thanks to our reporter Shirley Howe for this news.

December 13 bid euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Leasing ladies were Vi Howell 275, Theresa Deak 237, Pat Roussel 225 and Jean Scadden 222. First for the gents at 314 was Marcel Roussel followed by Kevin Maloney 302, Archie Ross 272 and Jesse Barlow 240. Our interim reporter Bev Johnson also advises that Barb Robitaille won the major special prize while Archie Ross, Jean Randell and Theresa Deak picked up the smaller awards. Jean Randell took a moonshot along with Kevin Maloney and Jason Peacock with Vi Howell doubling.

December 15 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: Most lone hand hon-

ours went to Pearl Cowen and Lil Mann with Lyn Preston and Shirley Morden posting the high scores. The afternoon's low was claimed by Mary Trumbell while Yvonne Arbuthnot won the special prize. Our reporter Tim Sharpe reminds that there will not be Monday afternoon euchre at St. Paul's until January and wishes everyone a happy holiday from the Friendship Club.

December 15 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: There were two teams on board with the top three players

for Team A being Janice Davidson, Vic Ballik and Carol Murphy and for Team B Hazel, Ida Young and Tom Grix. Marcy Morgan also reports that Rae Dawn Shepheard won the draw and five moonshots were recorded over the afternoon.

December 15 euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Sherin Brown reports that Barb Callaghan won for high hands, Elaine Smith for lone hands, Maria Tschida for low hands and Eileen Shepstone for the special prize.

Believe in the Magic of Giving!

As of December 4th, The Believe In the Magic of Giving campaign has raised **\$37,075** for the Haliburton Highlands Palliative Centre.

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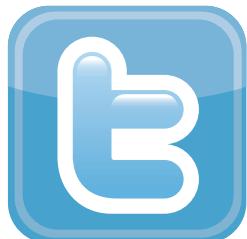
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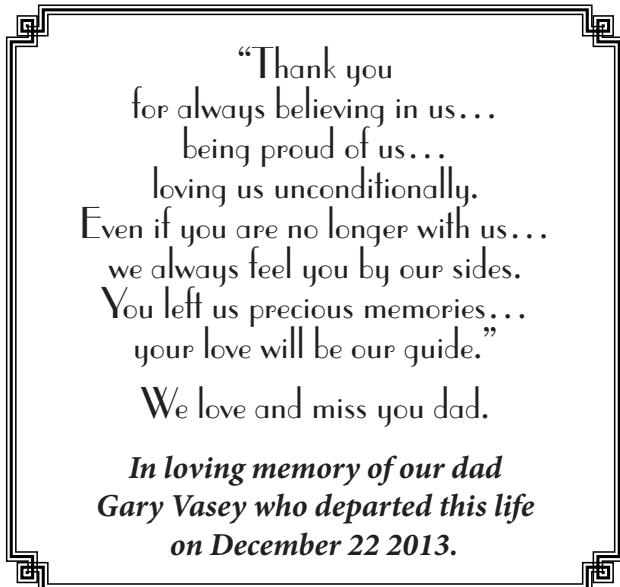
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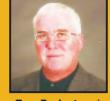
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Andrew Hodgson***
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Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33



Valerie Kulla*
286-2138



Denise LeBlanc*
286-2138 x 23

Woods Road \$359,000



- Fabulous 3+ bdrm home
- Over 1900 sq. ft. of living space
- Close to town, boat launch(s)
- Call Drew for further details

Drew Bishop 457-2128 x 23

Pine Street \$259,000



- Renovated 4+ bdrm in town home
- New windows upstairs, soffit and eaves
- New propane boiler and furnace
- Flat lot with lots of parking

Dagmar Boettcher 489-9968

Halbiem – BY THE LAKE! \$195,000



- Prestigious neighborhood
- Boat launch 5 lake chain
- Close to all amenities
- Walk to town!!!

Janice Brookes 457-2128 x 22

Lovely Home or Getaway! \$169,000



NEW PRICE

- 3 Bdrm, 1 Bath, only 10 min to Haliburton
- Open concept, lots of windows, 2 living areas
- W/O deck through kitchen & master
- Easy access to snowmobile trails & lake

Gloria Carnochan & Cindy Muenzel
754-1932

Comm/Res Bldg-Haliburton Village \$399,000



- 70 Ft Rd frontage, 0.23 Acre;
- Approx 2200 Sq Ft Comm Main Floor;
- 2 Rental Apt's 2nd floor;
- Bldg-\$399,000/Business/Bldg-\$425,000

Mark Dennys 457-2128 x 30

Now this is a Cottage! \$425,000



NEW LISTING

- Year round home on CLEAR LAKE
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, level lot
- Beautiful sand beach, fully furnished
- Oversized insulated garage, just perfect

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138 x 26

Kushog Lake Acreage \$195,000



- 30 acres with 85 feet waterfront
- Off year round municipal road
- Many great building sites
- Hard sand bottom waterfront

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

3 Lake Chain! \$339,900



NEW LISTING

- Great opportunity on Beech Lake
- Charming cottage on level lot, south facing
- Features 100 ft of sandy shoreline, great for the kids
- Lots of potential and priced to sell!

Ed Gibbons 286-2138 x 28

Haliburton Lake View \$104,900



- 54 acres off year round road
- Hydro, bell, high speed at lot line
- Building site has terrific view over lake
- Close to public beach & boat launch

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29

4-Season Waterfront home \$599,900



- Amazing privacy, beautiful SW view
- 3 bedroom cottage/home
- Garage with workshop and ATV/sled storage
- 265' shoreline, close to snowmobile trails

Susanne James & Andy Mosher
457-2128 x 33

Haliburton Lakefront Classic! \$699,000



- Charming 3200 sq ft home; 3BR; 2 bath
- 170' ft on Grass Lake; 5 Lake chain
- Beautifully landscaped; Western exposure; Large decks
- Ideal for a large family or entertaining

Valerie Kulla 286-2138

Head Lake Norland \$199,000



- 48 acre vacant parcel
- 200 feet waterfront,
- Southern exposure
- Hardwood bush

David Lee 286-2138 x 27

NEW PRICE

Glamor Lake \$569,000



- 5 bdrm, 3 bath, master w/ensuite
- WO to lakeside deck from master, kit & livingrm
- WO bsmt, landscaped lot, perennial gardens
- 3 car gar. with storage, + out buildings, custom dock

Dawn Poissant 457-2128 x 31

Living is Easy at Soyers Lake!



SOLD

- Magnificent custom built home or cottage
- 3 BRs, 2 1/2 baths, stunning granite fireplace
- Full walkout lower level, great lot, super view
- Double and single car garages

Kim Stamp 457-2128 x 24

Halls Lake \$250,000



- Great property with original 1940's cabin
- + 440 sq ft Bunkie with 1 BR, bath & kitchen
- Beautiful, hard packed, sand bottom beach!!

Margie Prestwich 705-306-0491

Sunnyside Hilltop Lot \$68,500



NEW LISTING

- Scenic hilltop views over Haliburton Village
- Multi-exposure 1.5 acre residential lot
- Private setting in area of finer homes
- Well-maintained Township road - a "Must-Buy!"

Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52

Country Charm \$249,900



- Close to town, 5 acres of privacy, with ponds
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath home
- 30 x 45 barn and 16 x 30 drive shed
- Great location, easy access, super value!

Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28

Boshkung Lake \$599,000



- Year round ctge/home on Echo Bay
- 151' of hard sand beach, with rock outcrops
- 3 bdrms, brick FP, custom kitchen, whirlpool tub
- West exp. and excellent privacy

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25

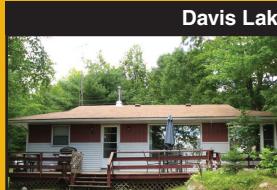
Tedious Lake \$519,000



- Newly built 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage
- 2+ acres, 150' water ftg & stunning sunsets
- Open concept layout with cathedral ceilings
- Full & finished walkout basement

Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25

Huntercreek Estates \$67,500

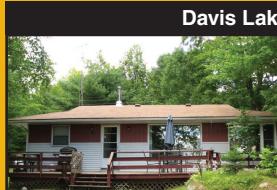


SOLD

- 2 Bedroom, 1.5 Bathroom Home
- Master with Ensuite and Walk-Through Closet
- Large Pine Sunroom and Large Deck off Dining Room
- Carport and Garden Storage

Melanie Vigrass 286-2138 x 32

Davis Lake \$279,900



- 3 bedroom, 4 season cottage.
- Bunkie + garage
- Level lot, sand beach, dock.
- Big lake view

David Lee 286-2138 x 27

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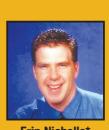
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